

**Hispanic Business, Trade, and Culture Commission Meeting**  
**Friday, March 2, 2007**  
**Guadalupe Center**  
**Kansas City, MO**  
**10 am-3 pm**

Members in Attendance: Chairman Representative Tim Flook, Jeanette Hernandez Prenger, Crista Hogan, Lillian Hurst, Miguel Meneses, Pedro Pantoja and Heraclio A Perez

Members Absent: Daniel Alvarez, Danette Felix, Al Gonzalez, Ramiro Icaza and Jalesia McQueen

Guests in Attendance: Ezekiel Amador, KC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board; Lynda Callon, Westside CAN Center; Carlos Gomez, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Kansas City; Sharon Gottschalk, Tony Aguirre Community Center; Tommy Mansen, University of Missouri; Chris Medina, Guadalupe Center; Claudio Perez-Korinko, International Marketing, LLC; Bernardo Ramirez, Guadalupe Center; Erika Ramirez, Hispanic Economic Development Corporation; Henry Sedate, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Kansas City; Jill Towerman, Adelante; Mark Wine, Missouri Department of Economic Development; and Krista Zurkammer, Missouri Department of Economic Development

Chairman Representative Tim Flook called the HBTCC March 2, 2007 meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. Chairman Representative Flook welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all in attendance for their support

The Commission members, supporting staff and guests made introductions.

Chairman Representative Tim Flook expressed his gratitude towards Chris Medina and the Guadalupe Center for their hospitality in letting the Commission use their facility and services.

Chairman Representative Flook introduced to the Commission an amendment to the Agenda for today. The introduction of a House Resolution Draft in relation to KC Smartport was added to the Agenda for discussion.

**Chairman Representative asked for a motion to the addition.**

**Jeanette Hernandez Prenger moved. HA Perez seconded the motion for the addition of House Resolution Draft to the March 2, 2007 Agenda. All approved, motion carried.**

Guadalupe Centers, Inc.

Chris Medina began to welcome all in attendance to the Guadalupe Centers and proceeded to explain the lengthy and glorious history of the facility and their services.

Mr. Medina introduced to the Commission Bernardo Ramirez. Mr. Ramirez proceeded to share with the Commission members the wide variety of services available to the community through the Center. The Guadalupe Center offers senior health programs, senior human services, early childhood education, youth education, youth recreation, multi-language education, language skills programs, scholarship programming, community development programs, business development programs, and a culinary school located on site. One of the important elements in the youth education programming is the encouragement of continued education. With some of the current immigration legislation it is important to remember the necessity of educating our future Latino youth.

Chairman Representative Flook thanked and commended Chris Medina, Bernardo Ramirez, staff and the Guadalupe Center for all their dedication in supporting their community.

*Hispanic Economic Development Corporation*

Erika Ramirez thanked the Commission for this great opportunity to speak to them about the HEDC and our services. The HEDC focuses on economic development initiatives through job creation and business development. The HEDC offers their clients Business Development Programs, BDP. This provides direct technical assistance and guidance to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs using case management. Some of the services provided are business planning and business plan development, regulatory compliance, marketing, finance and accounting, MBE/WBE certification, business financing and loan packaging and additional services as needed. The HEDC also has a Small Business Incubator with conference room facilities, computer and internet access, office equipment and technology, 24-hour access to the facility, and on-going business assistance. HEDC encounters challenges along the way with language barriers, unfamiliarity with business planning and start-up process, unfamiliarity with government regulations, and lack of knowledge in resources, financial literacy, and access to financing.

The Commission congratulated Erika Ramirez and the HEDC for their excellent programming and the devotion of the HEDC to the community.

*Tony Aguirre Community Center*

Sharon Gottschalk thanked the Commission for the invitation and praised all in attendance for the wide selection of programming they offer to their communities. The Tony Aguirre Community Center is named for a distinguished member of the Kansas City community; Tony Aguirre was an outstanding athlete who brought the skills and positive values he learned to the community through his many years of coaching and mentoring. The community center was named in his honor in July of 2000. Ms. Gottschalk introduced Ezekiel Amador who is the Chair of the Community Center Advisory Committee. The community center is a great crime prevention tool for the community. The community has a calendar of events and festivities throughout the year. The center is part of the Park and Recreation Department and offers swimming pool, swimming lessons, gymnasium, meeting rooms, kitchen and exercise equipment.

Chairman Representative Flook thanked Sharon Gottschalk for joining the meeting today and giving the Commission an insight to the Tony Aguirre Community Center.

Chairman Representative Flook also thanked Ezekiel Amador for his dedication and services to the Community Center.

*Kansas City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*

Carlos Gomez thanked Chairman Representative Flook and the Commission members for the invite today and gave special recognition to his predecessor Miguel Meneses for his exceptional work with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City was founded in 1977 by 25 Hispanic business leaders who envisioned the need for an organization that would represent their interests before the public and private sectors. Since its inception, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has worked towards the development of its members and in promoting business relationships between Hispanic businesses and non-Hispanic businesses in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Some of the services and events of the Chamber are the Annual Awards Gala, Business Development, International Trade, Legislative and Government Affairs, Membership Resources, and Midwest Business Conference. Some of the programming includes business planning, advertising, sales and marketing, procurement and certification processes. The Chamber also is developing youth mentoring programs; working with the Latino youth to excite them about their future and what is available to them.

Pedro Pantoja congratulated the Chamber on their success and expressed gratitude to the staff for their services. Mr. Pantoja wished to commend the Kansas City area for their true advancement within the Latino community and was impressed by everything he has heard and seen during his Kansas City visit.

Chairman Representative Flook called for a lunch break at 12:20 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 1:25 p.m. following a walking tour of the Guadalupe Centers, LLC.

After a delicious lunch prepared by the Guadalupe Centers, LLC Culinary School the meeting was open for discussion on the House Resolution Draft. The Resolution is in response to the Commissions' support of the continued progression of Smartport Customs Port in Kansas City to the State of Missouri and Washington DC. Mark Wine informed the Commission of the new US State and US Census Report positioning Mexico as being the third highest Missouri trading partner going down one spot from second. Second is currently held by South Korea. These demographics should be reflected in the Resolution. The Commission continued discussion of the Resolution and the language. Many of the members felt the need of some sort of language representing the job creation in the Resolution: how many jobs would be created and brought to Kansas City. The reduced shipment delivery time is also a key element to the Custom Port and should be marketed in the Resolution as such.

The Commission agreed additional research was needed to obtain specific numbers to be added to the Resolution.

**Chairman Representative Flook asked for a motion to continue the work on the Resolution for the Commissions' support of KC Smartport Custom Port.**

**Jeanette Hernandez Prenger moved. Christa Hogan seconded the motion for the continued work on the House Resolution Draft. All approved, motion carried.**

**The minutes from the January 22, 2007 meeting were introduced and reviewed. With no changes or corrections Christa Hogan made the motion to approve the minutes. Pedro Pantoja seconded the motion to accept the January 22, 2007 minutes. All approved, motion carried unanimously.**

The Commission began discussing future meeting locations and dates. The Commission all agreed to continue moving the meetings around the state. With a consensus of the Commission the next HBTCC meeting will be April 27 in St. Louis with the possibility of a reception with the St. Louis Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The Commission also agreed for a meeting on June 22 in Joplin. We would continue to gather information from different sources to assist the Commission in formulating their recommendations to the Department of Economic Development and the Governor.

The HBTCC members asked DED to release some sort of press information on the Commission and the members especially reaching out to the members' media representation. Krista Zurkamer will be working with the Communications team at DED to formulate a press release on the HBTCC website and Commission members.

Chairman Representative Flook invited the Commission members and guests to Hispanic Day at the Capitol on March 7, 2007. Detailed information will be emailed out to any interested parties.

Chairman Representative Flook suggested the HBTCC Presentation be tabled until the next meeting when Al Gonzalez was in attendance due to Mr. Gonzalez's involvement in the formulation of the presentation. The Commission was in agreement.

**With no further business Chairman Representative Tim Flook asked for a motion to adjourn.**

**Heraclio Perez moved. Pedro Pantoja seconded the motion to adjourn the March 2, 2007 HBTCC meeting. All approved, motion carried.**

With no further business Chairman Representative Tim Flook adjourn the meeting at 3:02 p.m.